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ABSTRACT

On November 3, 1975, a Regional Conference on Libraries was convened by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments to make recommendations for library improvement based on perceived local needs. Four workshops had been held before the Conference in Logan, Canadian, Cleveland, and Oklahoma Counties. Recommendations from those workshops were reviewed at the regional meeting. Five resolutions were unanimously approved: (1) to support proposed legislation that would increase the ceiling mill levy for libraries and remove restrictions on intercounty library services, (2) to conduct an information campaign in Canadian and Logan Counties on full service libraries, (3) to support Logan and Canadian Counties joining some kind of library system, (4) to increase the cooperation and coordination between Oklahoma County and Pioneer Multi-County libraries, and (5) to create a statewide or areawide library card. (KB)

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ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES
## FY 1975

THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING FOUR COUNTY CONFERENCES, AN INTERIM REPORT, THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND THIS CONCLUDING FISCAL YEAR REPORT, IS FINANCED WITH FUNDS FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICE AND CONSTRUCTION ACT AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS THROUGH A $2,000 GRANT FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES, JULY 1976.

# FOREWORD

The Regional Conference on Libraries was the culmination of a project undertaken by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. Its purpose was to assist members of the Association in identifying their local library desires and to aid the Department in carrying out its mission of developing public libraries.

After consultation with Department staff, it was determined that adequate survey information already existed on book/population ratios and similar hard data. What did not exist was a clear idea of the local desires regarding library services.

With this in mind, the Association's Board of Directors, consisting of local elected officials from cities, counties and towns, approved a grant application designed to give this kind of information.

The project was structured to include a county-wide workshop in each of the Association's four counties: Canadian, Cleveland, Logan and Oklahoma. Following the county conferences, a regional conference was convened to consider the information obtained from the local level.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS THE RESULTS OF THAT REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF AN IMPARTIAL CONSULTANT ENGAGED TO DISCUSS AND REVIEW LIBRARY SERVICES WITH LOCAL CITIZENS. PREVIOUS INTERIM REPORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS DURING THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT: THIS REPORT REPRESENTS THE FINAL SUMMARY FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD.

## COUNTY WORKSHOPS

THE FOUR COUNTY WORKSHOPS THAT PRECEDED THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES WERE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE TO THIS PROJECT. EACH WORKSHOP WAS CHAIRED BY A LOCAL COMMUNITY LEADER INTERESTED IN LIBRARIES. THEY DESERVE SPECIAL MENTION FOR THEIR EFFORTS:

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|---|---|
| CANADIAN COUNTY WORKSHOP: | COMMISSIONER PAUL ELMENHORST, CHAIRMAN. |
| CLEVELAND COUNTY WORKSHOP: | MAYOR WILLIAM O. MORGAN, NORMAN, CHAIRMAN. |
| LOGAN COUNTY WORKSHOP: | COMMISSIONER T. P. HAYES, CHAIRMAN. |
| OKLAHOMA COUNTY WORKSHOP: | DR. C. HAROLD RIPPER, METROPOLITAN LIBRARY COMMISSION, CHAIRMAN |

MORE THAN 600 PEOPLE WERE INVITED TO THE WORKSHOPS, INCLUDING ALL LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, STATE LEGISLATORS FROM THE AREA, LIBRARY BOARDS, CITIZEN GROUPS, EDUCATORS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS. FULL COOPERATION WAS EXTENDED TO THIS PROJECT BY MR. WILLIAM LOWRY AND HIS STAFF AT THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES, AND MR. LEE BRAWNER, AND HIS STAFF AT THE OKLAHOMA

COUNTY LIBRARIES, MISS HAZEL NICHOLSON OF THE GUTHRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MRS. MARTHA MULANAX, EL RENO PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND MRS. NOLA WHEELER, CRESCENT PUBLIC LIBRARY.

IN ADDITION, THE WEEKLY AND DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTIES WERE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS AND THE CONFERENCE, ENSURING A BROADER CROSS-SECTION OF PARTICIPATION THAN OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. EXAMPLES OF COVERAGE IS LOCATED IN THE ADDENDUM.

MR. JACK MULKEY, PROJECT CONSULTANT AND RECENTLY-NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION, PROVIDED A STRONG PROFESSIONAL DIRECTION TO THE PROJECT.

FINALLY, THE STAFF OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES GAVE CLOSE ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL THROUGH MISS ESTHER MAE HENKE, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, AND D. DEAN DOERR, PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSULTANT DURING ALL STAGES OF THE PROJECT.

## CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support passage of State Question 507.
2. A public information program on full service libraries in Canadian and Logan Counties, either conducted by or supported by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.
3. Logan and Canadian Counties should belong to some type of library system.
4. Oklahoma County Libraries and Pioneer Multi-County Libraries should increase their cooperation and coordination.
5. Creation of a statewide or areawide library card for libraries belonging to a system.

# LIBRARY INFORMATION SHEET
# PRESENTED TO THE ACOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
# NOVEMBER 5, 1975

THIS IS AN INFORMATION PAPER DISCUSSING THE FIVE RECOMMENDATIONS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1975. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CONFERENCE AND ITS EVOLUTION IS INCLUDED.

THE ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS ARE PARTIALLY BASED ON SUGGESTIONS BY AN OUTSIDE LIBRARY CONSULTANT ENGAGED FOR THIS PROJECT WHILE OTHERS WERE ORIGINATED BY THE CONFERENCE ITSELF. CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS, REPRESENTING A BROAD CROSS-SECTION OF PEOPLE AND GROUPS FROM THE ACOG REGION (AND INCLUDING MCCLAIN COUNTY, A PART OF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES), SPLIT INTO FIVE GROUPS TO DISCUSS THE CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY OTHER LIBRARY TOPICS THAT EMERGED. LATER, IN FULL SESSION, THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS WERE ADOPTED.

SUPPORT PASSAGE OF STATE QUESTION 507

STATE QUESTION 507, ADOPTED AS SJR 8 DURING THE PAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION, CALLS A STATEWIDE VOTE TO AMEND ARTICLE X OF THE OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION AS IT AFFECTS LIBRARIES. THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT HAS TWO ASPECTS: (1) IT PERMITS COUNTY VOTERS TO INCREASE THE MILL LEVY FOR LIBRARIES UP TO A CEILING OF FOUR MILLS, AS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT TWO MILL LIMIT: AND (2) IT REMOVES THE RESTRICTION THAT PROHIBITS OTHER COUNTIES FROM JOINING WITH OKLAHOMA OR TULSA COUNTIES TO

PROVIDE LIBRARY SERVICES. AS IT STANDS, THE STATE'S TWO MOST POPULOUS COUNTIES CANNOT BE JOINED BY ANY OTHER TO FORM A LIBRARY SYSTEM.

IN ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATION TO SUPPORT PASSAGE OF SQ 507, CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH CHANGES ARE PERMISSIVE, NOT MANDATORY. RAISING THE MILL LEVY WOULD REQUIRE A COUNTY-WIDE VOTE, AS WOULD PERMISSION FOR ANOTHER COUNTY TO JOIN WITH TULSA OR OKLAHOMA COUNTIES TO SUPPORT LIBRARY SERVICES. ( IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHILE THESE TWO COUNTIES ARE THE ONLY ONES FORBIDDEN TO JOIN WITH OR BE JOINED BY OTHER CONTIES, ALL OTHER COUNTIES MUST FIND A COMPANION COUNTY IN ORDER TO CREATE A SYSTEM. ASIDE FROM TULSA AND OKLAHOMA, THERE CAN BE NO SINGLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM UNDER THE PRESENT ARTICLE X. CREATION OF A MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM REQUIRES A VOTE IN ALL AFFECTED COUNTIES.)

INFORMATION CAMPAIGN BY ODL IN CANADIAN AND LOGAN COUNTIES TO EXPLAIN FULL SERVICE LIBRARIES.

RESIDENTS OF LOGAN AND CANADIAN COUNTIES, THE TWO COUNTIES IN THIS PLANNING REGION THAT ARE NOT MEMBERS OF A SYSTEM, SHOULD BE AQUAINTED BY ODL WITH THE BENEFITS OF FULL LIBRARY SERVICE, ACCORDING TO THE CONFERENCE. CURRENTLY, CANADIAN IS SERVED BY EL RENO'S CITY LIBRARY AND SMALL LIBRARY CLUB FACILITIES IN YUKON, AND MUSTANG. LOGAN HAS THE GUTHRIE PUBLIC LIBRARY CRESCENT CITY LIBRARY, AND A SMALL LIBRARY IN MARSHALL. BECAUSE THESE FACILITIES ARE OPERATED WITH LIMITED CITY FUNDS, CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE INABILITY AS WELL AS THE

INEQUITY OF EXPECTING THE LIBRARIES IN QUESTION TO PROVIDE FULL SERVICE ON A COUNTY BASIS. MUSTANG AND YUKON PARTICIPANTS IN PARTICULAR WERE URGENT ABOUT THE NEED FOR MORE LIBRARY SERVICE IN THEIR COUNTY.

THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NEXT.

LOGAN AND CANADIAN COUNTIES SHOULD BE MEMBERS OF A LIBRARY SYSTEM.

CONFEREES DIFFERED FROM EACH OTHER AND WITH THE CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT WHICH COUNTIES LOGAN AND CANADIAN SHOULD JOIN TO PARTICIPATE IN A SYSTEM, BUT THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT BOTH COUNTIES SHOULD BE IN A SYSTEM. ONLY IN A SYSTEM, THE CONFERENCE AGREED, COULD AN ADEQUATE TAX BASE EXIST TO SUPPORT A FULL RANGE OF LIBRARY SERVICES. WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP IN A SYSTEM, CITY RESIDENTS IN COMMUNITIES WITH A LIBRARY WILL CONTINUE TO PAY THE BILL FOR LIBRARY SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE COUNTY. FUTHERMORE, THE LIMITED INCOME OF CITY LIBRARIES WILL ASSURE ONLY LIMITED ABILITY TO SERVE.

INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN LIBRARY SYSTEMS IN THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AREA

THIS RECOMMENDATION PRIMARILY ADDRESSES THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES AND OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARIES, THE ONLY TWO SYSTEMS IN THE PLANNING REGION. THE CONFERENCE SPECIFICALLY SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT ANY OTHER SYSTEMS THAT COME INTO BEING SHOULD ALSO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING SYSTEMS.

As an outgrowth of the conference, and consistent with this recommendation, the directors of Pioneer and Oklahoma County Libraries have scheduled a meeting to discuss technical problems of mutual borrowing priviliges for patrons, a formalized system of book return between the systems, shared in-service training, and other potentials. Any programs devised will then be taken to the governing library board for action. See addendum

A state or areawide library card for systems.

Shared or cooperative cards were limited to systems in this recommendation because of compatibility, city or club libraries. The conference preferred a statewide card, but indicated an areawide card is more practicable at present because of the willingness to cooperate shown by Oklahoma and Pioneer Libraries. See addendum.

In addition to the recommendations, the conference expressed the need for more state aid to libraries and for a library evaluation program conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

## HISTORY

ACOG's Board of Directors approved application to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries for a $2,000 grant in March, 1975. ODL approved the 100 percent grant in April, along with nine similar grants to other planning districts. Grant funds are from Title I. Library Services and Construction Act.

The ACOG application was based on a program devised in a meeting with the region's two library systems: Oklahoma County Libraries and Pioneer Multi-County Libraries. Considerating the limited amount of grant funds and restrictions on spending, both systems agreed the best use would be to explore areas of cooperation among libraries through a series of local meetings, ODL suggested an outside consultant to assist in the program and to draw up impartial recommendations.

Jack Mulkey, Assistant Director of the Mississippi Library Commission, was engaged as consultant with the concurrance of all parties. Four workshops were scheduled in the planning district counties as the quickest and most accurate method for acquainting the consultant with library concerns and needs in the region. Based on this exposure, he drew up a list of recommendations to be considered at a regional conference of interested citizens, local and state officials, librarians and administrators.

Jack Mulkey
Mississippi Library Commission
Jackson, Mississippi 39207

# LIBRARY WORKSHOPS
# ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS
# SEPTEMBER 2-5, 1975
# SUMMARY STATEMENT

## 1. GENERAL

The comments and recommendations found in this report are the result of this consultant's participation in a series of mini-workshops concerned with development of library service in the ACOG region September 2-5, 1975. Because the conclusions found in this report are based principally on the discussion of workshop participants and not on a formal survey or needs assessment, it is recommended that Oklahoma Department of Libraries conduct such an assessment on a county by county basis in the ACOG district to provide the data necessary to plan adequate library service. A copy of the instrument used by the Mississippi Economic Council to evaluate county-wide library service is attached and might prove helpful in developing a similar instrument in Oklahoma.

Further, ACOG is to be commended for its interest in the development of good library service in the district. It is hoped (and certainly desirable) that this interest and active participation will continue. It is suggested that the ACOG Board and staff view the slide presentation produced by the Pioneer Multi-County Library System based in Norman. This explains in a most effective manner the type of library service which should be available to all residents of the ACOG but which presently is not.

## BASIC RECOMMENDATIONS

### LOGAN COUNTY

1. A CONCENTRATION PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INFORM LOGAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ABOUT FULL SERVICE LIBRARIES COMPARED TO THE INADEQUATE LIBRARY SERVICE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. DURATION - AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE COORDINATED BY THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES. BUT PARTICIPATION BY ACOG IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE.
2. MERGER BY 1977 OF LOGAN COUNTY WITH ANOTHER COUNTY TO FORM A MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM. THE LOGICAL CHOICE IS OKLAHOMA COUNTY ASSUMING THAT ENABLING LEGISLATION PASSES. STATE QUESTION 507, NOW.

### CANADIAN COUNTY

1. A CONCENTRATED PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INFORM CANADIAN COUNTY RESIDENTS ABOUT FULL SERVICE LIBRARIES COMPARED TO THE INADEQUATE LIBRARY SERVICE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE. DURATION AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. AGAIN, THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE COORDINATED BY THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES BUT PARTICIPATION BY ACOG WILL BE NEEDED.
2. MERGER BY MID-1977 WITH EITHER OKLAHOMA COUNTY (FIRST CHOICE) OR THE PIONEER SYSTEM (SECOND CHOICE) THUS ESTABLISHING COUNTY-WIDE SERVICE.

CLEVELAND COUNTY (THIS COUNTY IS ALREADY PART OF A SUCCESSFUL MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM)

1. DEMONSTRATION OF COOPERATIVE SERVICE WITH OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARY. SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS DEMONSTRATION INCLUDE RECIPROCAL BORROWING AND/OR CENTRALIZED PROCESSING OF MATERIALS.
2. DEMONSTRATION OF INTER-TYPE COOPERATION, I.E., A PROGRAM OF SERVICE WITH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES ON A MORE FORMAL BASIS THAN PRESENTLY EXISTS.
3. ASSIST OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES IN DEVELOPING PROGRAM OF STATE AID FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

OKLAHOMA COUNTY (THIS COUNTY HAS COUNTY-WIDE LIBRARY SERVICE AND A VERY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM)

1. EXPANSION OF SERVICE AREA BY MID 1977 TO INCLUDE LOGAN AND CANADIAN COUNTIES.
2. DEMONSTRATION OF COOPERATIVE SERVICE WITH PIONEER SYSTEM AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.
3. PUBLIC INFORMATION PROJECT TO EXPLAIN WHAT A FULL SERVICE LIBRARY DOES, EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. LIBRARIES ARE NOT BOOK STORAGE CENTERS AND THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW THIS.
4. SUPPORT, PROMOTE AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MUCH NEEDED PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL INCOME IS SORELY NEEDED.

# REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

## ATTENDANCE

Ann Adams
Harriet Barbour
Elsie Bell
Erma Blair
John Blevins
Lee B. Brawner
Ron Capshaw
Anne Chamberlain
Virginia Collier
E. R. Dennis
Ruth Dennis
Donna Denniston
D. Dean Doerr
Ross Duckett
Thomas E. Dunlap
Sandra Ellison
Ralph Funk
Dorothy Gleason
Marie Goode
Sally Harris
Jamey Hedgecock
Esther M. Henke
Betty Jain
Frances Kennedy
Carolyn Klepper
Mrs. Harold Lawson
Paul Little
Bill Lowry
Shirley Mangam
Lois McVickers
Mrs. Carl Megchee
Duane H. Meyers
Martha Mulanax
Helen Neal
Mrs. Garland Price
Joe Rice
Ted Rodarm
Betty Sartor
Sahron Saulmon
Elvus Sassen
Beverly Schadensack
Gail Seto
Rosalie Starks
Sharon Stumpff
Finetta Sullivan
Martha Swanson
Carol Tanzer
Betty Thornton
Gideon Tinsley
Wilma Tipps
Nina Wansley
Jim Welch
Pat Westmoreland
James Zink

# MINUTES

## REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES

NOVEMBER 3, 1975
CONFERENCE ROOM

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES

RALPH FUNK, DIRECTOR OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES, OPENED THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBRARIES WITH A STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES. MR. FUNK NOTED THE DEPARTMENT, AS THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY FOR OKLAHOMA, OPERATES UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN THE STATE.

AS PART OF ITS PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT HAS AWARDED GRANTS TO THE VARIOUS SUBSTATE PLANNING AGENCIES IN OKLAHOMA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVANCING PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT. THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE IS AN OUTGROWTH OF SUCH A GRANT TO THE ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS, THE SUBSTATE PLANNING AGENCY FOR CANADIAN, CLEVELAND, LOGAN AND OKLAHOMA COUNTIES.

RON CAPSHAW, REPRESENTING THE ASSOCIATION, WAS INTRODUCED AND SUMMARIZED HIS AGENCY'S USE OF THE $2,000 GRANT. MR. CAPSHAW SAID THE GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT WAS GIVEN TO STUDY LIBRARIES IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA WITH A VIEW TO POSSIBLE AREAS FOR COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. HE EXPLAINED THE ASSOCIATION IS MADE UP OF UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT HAVE ORGANIZED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS TO TAKE COMMON ACTION WHERE APPROPRIATE.

In its application for the grant, approved by its Board of Directors, the Association proposed a series of county-based workshops to explore basic problems and potential areas of cooperation. Following the workshops, and using the information obtained from the local residents and elected officials, a regional conference would have solid information to consider both on the level of citizen informatoin about libraries and about future goals.

As an added feature, an outside consultant was engaged to meet with the county workshops and develop recommendations that would be of use to the Association's Directors and to the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

"Mr. Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, is serving as consultant. He has made recommendations of considerable interest. I'm sorry he was unable to attend today's Conference, but project funds and time would not permit it," Mr. Capshaw said.

"As you can see from the agenda, this Conference will break up into task forces shortly to look at the consultant's recommendations along with any other concerns that surface."

Mr. Funk then gave a brief background of public libraries in Oklahoma. In 1956, the Library Services Act was passed to encourage public library development throughtout the county. It provided the impetus for Oklahoma to begin. There is now a library code in

THE STATE LAW TO FURTHER DEVELOP MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES, ALTHOUGH TWO COUNTIES - TULSA AND OKLAHOMA - ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE SINGLE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS. A REFERENDUM IS BEING CALLED FOR NEXT YEAR THAT WILL ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO VOTE ON, AMONG OTHER THINGS, WHETHER OR NOT THESE SINGLE-COUNTY SYSTEMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO BECOME PART OF MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEMS. IF APPROVED, IT WOULD STILL BE UP TO THE VOTERS LIVING IN THE LIBRARY SYSTEM WHETHER THEY WANT TO JOIN OTHER COUNTIES. THIS WOULD BE PERMISSIVE LEGISLATION, NOT MANDATORY.

MR. FUNK ASKED EVERYONE TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES SO THAT LATER IN THE DISCUSSION SESSIONS ALL WOULD KNOW ONE ANOTHER. (ATTENDANCE LIST CONTAINED ON PAGE NINE.)

FOLLOWING THE ROUND OF INTRODUCTIONS, MR. FUNK DISCUSSED THE OKLAHOMA LIBRARY PLAN, A DOCUMENT PARTIALLY DICTATED BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAW. HE SAID COPIES ARE AVAILABLE OF THE OKLAHOMA LONG RANGE PLAN FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT. IT IS BASED ON PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER, HE SAID. QUESTIONS WERE ENTERTAINED FROM THE FLOOR ON THE PLAN AND ABOUT THE CURRENT CEILING ON MILL LEVYS FOR LIBRARY SYSTEMS WORKING TOGETHER, HE SAID.

FURTHER DISCUSSION ENSUED ON THE EXCLUSION OF OKLAHOMA AND TULSA COUNTIES FROM PARTICIPATION IN MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEMS. WILLIAM LOWRY, DIRECTOR OF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES AND A PARTICIPANT IN DRAFTING THE LIBRARY CODE, SAID THAT AT THE TIME THESE WERE THE TWO COUNTIES WITH ENOUGH POPULATION TO SUPPORT THEIR OWN SYSTEMS. IT WAS NOTED THAT THERE ARE NOW PARTS OF THE CITY OF TULSA AND PARTS OF OKLAHOMA CITY THAT EXTEND INTO OTHER COUNTIES,

BUT WHEN THE LIBRARY CODE WAS DRAWN UP, THOSE COMMUNITIES DID NOT EXTEND INTO OTHER COUNTIES.

MR. TED RODARM, A MEMBER OF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES BOARD, GAVE A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON THE STRUCTURE OF MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEMS. IN THE TWO COUNTIES OF CLEVELAND AND MCCLAIN, WHICH MAKEUP THE PIONEED DISTRICT, MOORE, NORMAN, BLANCHARD AND PURCELL HAVE LIBRARIES. EACH CITY COUNCIL DETERMINED THE MANAGEMENT OF THE LOCAL LIBRARY. ALL THE PIONEER LIBRARIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BLANCHARD, HAVE INDIVIDUAL BOARDS FOR LOCAL DIRECTION. MR. LOWRY COORDINATES AND DIRECTS ALL THE LIBRARIES IN THE PIONEER SYSTEM.

FOLLOWING FLOOR DISCUSSION ON THE SOURCE OF DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY IN MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES, MR. D. DEAN DOERR EXPLAINED THE METHOD THAT WOULD BE USED FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION. ALL THOSE ATTENDING WERE ASSIGNED RANDOMLY TO ONE OF FIVE TASK FORCE GROUPS TO CONSIDER CONSULTANT RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO ORGINATE THEIR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS. THE TASK FORCES WOULD THEN RETURN FOR AN AFTERNOON SESSION OF THE FULL CONFERENCE AND TO COMPARE RECOMMENDATIONS.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

MR. DOERR ASSUMED THE CHAIR, INFORMING THE CONFERENCE THAT MR. FUNK WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE AFTERNOON SESSION. HE ALSO INTRODUCED REPRESENTATIVE ROSS DUCKETT, MUSTANG, WHO SAID HE IS VERY INTERESTED IN LIBRARIES IN THIS AREA.

REPORTERS FROM THE INDIVIDUAL TASK FORCES THEN LISTED THE POINTS CONSIDERED DURING THEIR MEETINGS.

FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS:

GROUP I

(1) THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES SHOULD CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF LIBRARY NEEDS FOR OKLAHOMA, CLEVELAND, MCCLAIN, CANADIAN AND LOGAN COUNTIES TO PROVIDE DATA NECESSARY FOR PLANNING ADEQUATE LIBRARY SERVICES.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SPONSOR A CONCENTRATED PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO INFORM CANADIAN COUNTY RESIDENTS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FULL LIBRARY SERVICES AND THOSE PRESENTLY EXISTING.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROMOTE FORMATION OF A CITIZENS COMMITTEE IN THE COUNTIES THAT ARE INTERESTED IN MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD SPONSOR ANOTHER WORKSHOP IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST IN ADEQUATE LIBRARY SERVICE AND IN EXTENDING LIBRARY SERVICE.

GROUP II

(1) THE GROUP'S PRIMARY CONCERN IS IN GETTING A YES VOTE IN CANADIAN COUNTY ON A MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM. THE GROUP BELIEVED IT WOULD BE THE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO INFORM THE PEOPLE ON THE MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM.

(2) If a county is interested in a multi-county system, the Department would have the responsibility for determining if an establishment grant or a demonstration grant would be the most desirable approach.

GROUP III

(1) Cleveland and Oklahoma Counties should explore a contractural arrangement for centralized processing and for sharing the in-service training of their library staffs.

(2) There should be greater cooperation among the college and university libraries, special libraries such as those found in the business community, and public libraries.

(3) A public information project should be devised to explain what a multi-county library is and what it can do.

Group III also noted some points that needed further discussion. If the library referendum (state question 507) passes, what happens to existing library boards? If Oklahoma County were to combine with another county (presupposing the permissive referendum passes) what would be the makeup of the library board?

According to the group, the most logical library service would result form a multi-county system made up of Logan and Canadian Counties, with Kingfisher County invited to join. If that alignment

WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THEN CANADIAN MIGHT JOIN PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES. THEN LOGAN COULD GO WITH OKLAHOMA, OR PIONEER, OR WITH KINGFISHER TO FORM A MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY.

GROUP IV

THE GROUP USED ITS TIME LEARNING ABOUT THE MECHANICS OF A MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY.

GROUP V

(1) STRONGLY SUPPORTS STATE QUESTION 507 (LIBRARY REFERENDUM).

(2) UPON PASSAGE OF STATE QUESTION 507, WHICH WILL BE VOTED ON IN AUGUST, 1976, CANADIAN COUNTY SHOULD JOIN WITH OKLAHOMA COUNTY TO FORM A MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY. AN ALTERNATIVE CHOICE WOULD BE FOR CANADIAN TO JOIN WITH LOGAN AND KINGFISHER COUNTIES TO GIVE A BROADER TAX BASE. LOGAN COUNTY'S FIRST CHOICE SHOULD BE TO JOIN WITH OKLAHOMA COUNTY. LOGAN'S ALTERNATIVE CHOICE WOULD BE THE SAME AS CANADIAN'S.

(3) PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES AND OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARIES SHOULD HAVE A RECIPROCAL BORROWER'S CARD FOR THEIR PATRONS.

THE FLOOR WAS OPENED TO DISCUSSION. THE CONFERENCE WAS INFORMED THAT A SLIDE PRESENTATION IS BEING PREPARED TO INFORM AS MANY CITIZENS AS POSSIBLE ABOUT STATE QUESTION 507. ONE OF ITS PURPOSES IS TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTION ON TULSA AND OKLAHOMA COUNTIES THAT

PROHIBITS THEM FROM EXPANDING THEIR SERVICES BEYOND THE COUNTY LINE.

DISCUSSION THEN MOVED TO THE INCREASED LEVY THAT COULD BE VOTED TO FUND LIBRARIES IF VOTERS APPROVE THE QUESTION IN AUGUST 1976, AND LOCAL VOTERS SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVE A HIGHER LEVY. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE HIGHER LEVY COULD ONLY BE IMPOSED AFTER A VOTE OF LOCAL RESIDENTS.

A SHORT TIME WAS PROVIDED FOR PERSONS NOT AFFILIATED WITH A LIBRARY SYSTEM TO MEET SEPARATELY FROM THOSE WHO ARE AFFILIATED.

THE UNAFFILIATED GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT AN IDEAL CONFIGURATION FOR A MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM WOULD INCLUDE LOGAN, KINGFISHER, AND CANADIAN COUNTY.

THE AFFILIATED GROUP REPORTED THAT THE DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY AND PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES AGREED TO SET A DATE WHEN THEY AND THEIR STAFF COULD MEET TO CONSIDER AND DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS TO ACHIEVE FURTHER COOPERATION. POSSIBILITIES OF COOPERATION INCLUDE RECIPROCAL POLICIES OF SERVICE TO THE PATRONS OF THE AREA (INCLUDING INTER-LIBRARY FILM SERVICE) AND A COOPERATIVE SELECTION OF MATERIALS AND RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS. THE GROUP ALSO SUPPORTED IN-SERVICE TRAINING FOR LIBRARY STAFFS WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SHARING COSTS ACCORDING TO PARTICIPATION; COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS FOR PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION; AND THE SHARING OF CREATIVE EFFORTS PRODUCED WITHIN EACH LIBRARY OF IN-LIBRARY DISPLAYS. THE GROUP URGES CONTINUED COOPERATION AND

ENCOURAGEMENT OF STATE AID.

MR. DOERR NOTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE DIFFERENT GROUPS AS FOLLOWS:

1. ALL GROUPS SUPPORTED STATE QUESTION 507.
2. ALL GROUPS BELIEVE THAT THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES SHOULD CONDUCT OR HELP TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN FOR THE TWO UNAFFILIATED COUNTIES (LOGAN AND CANADIAN).
3. THAT LOGAN AND CANADIAN COUNTIES SHOULD HAVE SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.
4. OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARIES AND PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARIES SHOULD INCREASE THEIR COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.
5. STATEWIDE OR CENTRAL OKLAHOMA AREAWIDE LIBRARY CARD FOR SYSTEM LIBRAIES (SUGGESTED IN THE AFTERNOON SESSION).

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE SUGGESTIONS. MR. PAUL LITTLE, OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARIES, MOVED TO ADOPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION SECONDED AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

MR. CAPSHAW REMINDED PARTICIPANTS TO SPEAK TO THEIR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS AND FELLOW CITIZENS ABOUT THE ITEMS DISCUSSED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:25 P.M.

# ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS
# PUBLIC LIBRARY WORKSHOPS
# SEPTEMBER 2-5, 1975
# A REPORT WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

BY

JACK MULKEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION

THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES USING FUNDS FROM THE LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT, TITLE I.

# LIBRARY WORKSHOPS
## ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS
## SEPTEMBER 2-5, 1975

"EVERY CITIZEN HAS THE RIGHT TO GOOD LIBRARY SERVICE. IN OKLAHOMA MANY CITIZENS HAVE NO LIBRARY SERVICE, WHILE OTHERS ARE RECEIVING MINIMAL SERVICE ... A LIBRARY IS NOT STATIC BUT GROWS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND WITH THE REQUESTS FOR INCREASED RESOURCES AND EXPANDING SERVICES. THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE STATE AND THE EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS CITIZENS ARE TREMENDOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE LIBRARY SERVICE AVAILABLE. DEPRIVED OF THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FREELY, INDUSTRY SUFFERS, PEOPLE WITHER INTELLECTUALLY, AND DEMOCRACY IS INEFFECTIVE."

THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH SERVED AS AN INTRODUCTION TO A DOCUMENT ENTITLED OKLAHOMA PUBLIC LIBRARIES GOALS FOR "75 WHICH WAS PREPARED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS FOR THE BOARD OF THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES IN APRIL OF 1969. THE BASIC PREMISE EXPRESSED IN THE FIRST SENTENCE THAT EVERY CITIZEN HAS THE RIGHT TO GOOD LIBRARY SERVICE IS AS STRONG A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE IN 1975 AS IT WAS IN 1969.

UNFORTUNATELY, ON THIS BICENTENIAL EVE MANY OKLAHOMA CITIZENS STILL HAVE NO LIBRARY SERVICE, WHILE OTHERS ARE STILL RECEIVING VERY MINIMAL SERVICE. SPECIFICALLY, SOME OF THOSE CITIZENS RESIDE WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE SUB-STATE PLANNING DISTRICT KNOWN AS ACOG.

OF THE FOUR COUNTIES WHICH COMPRISE ACOG, TWO COUNTIES, LOGAN AND CANADIAN, HAVE NO COUNTY-WIDE PROGRAM OF LIBRARY SERVICE - ALTHOUGH SOME LIBRARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE IN TWO TOWNS IN EACH COUNTY. THE TWO REMAINING COUNTIES, OKLAHOMA AND CLEVELAND ARE PARTICIPATING IN REASONABLE SOPHISTICATED LIBRARY PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO REACH ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE RESPECTIVE COUNTIES. (CLEVELAND IS PART OF A MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM, PIONEER, WHICH INCLUDES MCCLAIN COUNTY.) HOWEVER, BOTH LIBRARY SYSTEMS REQUIRE INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IF THEY ARE TO CONTINUE TO MEET THE WIDE-RANGING INFORMATION NEEDS OF THEIR PATRONS.

IN FACT, THE DENOMINATOR COMMON TO ALL FOUR COUNTIES IF THE NEED FOR AN IMPROVED FINANCIAL BASE FROM WHICH TO OPERATE. CURRENTLY, COUNTY LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEMS MAY RECEIVE FUNDING FROM A SPECIAL AD AVALOREM TAX OF FROM 1 TO 2 MILLS AUTHORIZED BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE OKLAHOMA CONSTITUTION AND VOTED BY THE RESIDENTS OF EACH COUNTY. OKLAHOMA AND TULSA COUNTIES ARE THE ONLY COUNTIES WHICH, BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, MAY VOTE THE LIBRARY TAX AND OPERATE A SINGLE COUNTY SYSTEM. THE LANGUAGE OF THE AMENDMENT PROHIBITS THEM FROM SPENDING TAX MONEY JOINTLY WITH OTHER COUNTIES, AND THIS ACTS AS A RESTRICTION AGAINST THEIR COMBINING WITH OTHER COUNTIES INTO A MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY. THE 1975 STATE LEGISLATURE PASSED SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION #8 CALLING FOR A STATE-WIDE ELECTION IN 1976 TO RAISE THE PERMISSIVE MILL LEVY FROM TWO TO FOUR MILLS AND REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON OKLAHOMA AND TULSA COUNTIES. IN THE NEIGHBORING STATE OF LOUISIANA, PERMISSIVE MILLAGE IS ALREADY UP TO FIVE MILLS AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IN THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE

SESSION OF THAT STATE A REQUEST TO INCREASE MILLAGE FROM FIVE TO SEVEN MILLS WILL BE FORTHCOMING. FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL HEALTH OF OKLAHOMA LIBRARIES THIS MILLAGE INCREASE IS A MUST. HOPEFULLY, OKLAHOMA VOTERS WILL UNDERSTAND AND VOTE ACCORDINGLY.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL VIA PERMISSIVE MILLAGE IS NOT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, IF LIBRARIES IN OKLAHOMA AND ACOG SPECIFICALLY ARE TO EVER REACH NATIONAL STANDARDS. OKLAHOMA SHOULD HAVE A PROGRAM OF STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES. WHILE ANY SUCH PROGRAM WOULD BE COORDINATED BY THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES, THE DEMAND FOR AND SUPPORT OF THE PROGRAM MUST COME FROM THE LIBRARY COMMUNITY AT LARGE ---- LIBRARIANS, TRUSTEES, PATRONS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS. IT TAKES MANY VOICES TO MAKE LIBRARY SERVICE A CONCERN OF THE STATE PERSONNEL GRANTS PROGRAM PRESENTLY IN USE IN MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION. IT IS INCLUDED AS AN EXAMPLE AND NOT AS A SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION. OTHER STATE AID PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BEFORE ANY DECISION IS MADE. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT LIBRARY LEADERS IN OKLAHOMA WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES TO FORMULATE A PROGRAM FOR PRESENTATION AT THE NEXT LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

## THE WORKSHOPS

### LOGAN COUNTY

THE FIRST WORKSHOP WAS HELD IN GUTHRIE ON SEPTEMBER 2, ATTENDANCE WAS POOR ---- POSSIBLY THE RESULT OF APATHY ON THE PART OF COUNTY RESIDENTS BUT MORE PROBABLY A LACK OF INFORMATION AND UNDERSTANDING ON THEIR PART CONCERNING THE NATURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND SERVICES THAT COULD BE OFFERED. THE PRESENTATION OF THE SLIDE

SHOW ON THE SERVICES OF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM PROVIDED THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE CONCEPT OF FULL SERVICE LIBRARIES WAS A NEW ONE. IN FACT THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PRESIDING ADMITTED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE LAW WHICH PERMITTED THE FORMATION OF MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEMS. A CONSULTANT FROM THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES POINTED OUT THAT ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS WERE AVAILABLE FROM THE DEPARTMENT WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FUNDS EQUAL TO TWO MILLS FOR EACH COUNTY. THIS TOO APPARENTLY CAME AS A SURPRISE. A VERY BASIC COUNTY-WIDE INFORMATION PROGRAM IS NEEDED HERE EVENTUALLY LEADING TO MERGER OF LOGAN COUNTY WITH AN ESTABLISHED SYSTEM.

CANADIAN COUNTY

THE WORKSHOP IN CANADIAN COUNTY WAS HELD IN EL RENO AND WAS VERY WELL ATTENDED WITH PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTING ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTY. AGAIN, THE PIONEER SLIDE SHOW PROVIDED A FOCAL POINT FOR THE DISCUSSION. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE OUTSET THAT THERE IS INTEREST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY-WIDE LIBRARY SERVICE. HOWEVER, SEVERAL EL RENO RESIDENTS WERE QUITE VOCAL ABOUT NOT WANTING THE EL RENO PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE A PART OF ANY SYSTEM NOW OR IN THE FUTURE. THEY APPARENTLY FEARED LOSS OF AUTONOMY AND WERE QUITE CONCERNED THAT THE LIBRARY BUILDING WOULD BE DESTROYED. SINCE SEVERAL COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTY ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE ADEQUATE LIBRARY SERVICE, IT IS HOPED THAT A SUBSTANTIAL COUNTY-WIDE INFORMATION PROGRAM WILL ELIMINATE NEEDLESS FEARS CONCERNING THE NATURE OF LARGER UNITS OF LIBRARY SERVICE. PUBLIC FORUMS LIKE THE EL RENO MEETING ARE CERTAINLY DESIRABLE AND MUSH CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IF THE

PARTICIPANTS THINK IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO.

## CLEVELAND COUNTY

CLEVELAND COUNTY IS A PART OF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM AND ALREADY HAS A WELL DEVELOPED PROGRAM OF LIBRARY SERVICE. BECAUSE OF SATISFIED CLIENTELE, THERE TENDED TO BE FEWER LIBRARY USERS AT THE MEETING THAN THERE WERE LIBRARIANS. HOWEVER, THE LIBRARIANS PRESENT REPRESENTED SCHOOL AND ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND PART OF THE DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND THE POSSIBLITY OF INTER-TYPE LIBRARY COOPERATION WITHIN THE SYSTEM WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ALL LIBRARY USERS IN CLEVELAND COUNTY WITH ACCESS TO MORE SOURCES OF INFORMATION. IT WAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT MANY CLEVELAND COUNTY RESIDENTS USE THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM. SINCE BOTH SYSTEM DIRECTORS WERE PRESENT, THE IDEA OF CO-OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES ON A FORMAL BASIS BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS WAS DISCUSSED. IT DOES NOT SEEM REALISTIC AT THIS TIME FOR THESE TWO ESTABLISHED SYSTEMS TO CONSIDER MERGER. IF THE PIONEER MULTI-COUNTY SYSTEM IS TO CONTINUE TO GROW, THEN ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE NEEDED. AN INCREASE IN THE MILLAGE LEVY WILL HELP, BUT A PROGRAM OF STATE AID IS ALSO VERY DESIRABLE.

## OKLAHOMA COUNTY

OKLAHOMA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM IS ALSO A WELL DEVELOPED FULL SERVICE LIBRARY SYSTEM AND EXTENDS ITS SERVICES TO ALL COUNTY RESIDENTS. IN ADDITION RESIDENTS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTIES MAY USE ITS MATERIALS UPON PAYMENT OF ANNUAL FEE. LIKE MOST LARGE URBAN SYSTEMS, HOWEVER, THIS SYSTEM IS EXPERIENCING SUBSTANTIAL BUDGET

PROBLEMS. A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ITS ANNUAL BUDGET GOES INTO MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE PHYSICAL FACILITIES. THE PRESENT BOOK BUDGET OF $225,000 IS LOW FOR A SYSTEM THIS SIZE. A RECENT APPEAL TO THE VOTERS FOR INCREASED FINANCIAL SUPPORT FAILED AND THE RESULT HAS BEEN REDUCED HOURS OF OPERATION FOR SYSTEM BRANCHES. BECAUSE OF THESE PROBLEMS, THE WORKSHOP DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OF THE SYSTEM AND HOW THEY WERE FUNDED, AND A LOOK AT THE LEGITIMATE FUNCTION OF LIBRARIES ON THE CONTEMPORARY SCENE. ONE LIBRARY USER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE NUMBER OF PROGRANS PRESENTLY TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE SYSTEM THAT WERE NOT RELATED TO THE PURCHASE AND CIRCULATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS. SHE INDICATED THAT SHE WAS NOT ALONE IN THIS CONCERN AND THAT VOTERS WOULD NOT SUPPORT A FINANCIAL INCREASE AS LONG AS FUNDS WERE BEING USED IN THIS MANNER. THIS IS A MATTER WHICH NEEDS TO BE EXPLAINED TO THE PUBLIC. LIBRARIES ARE NOT WAREHOUSES AND PROGRAM ACTIVITIES ARE DESIGNED TO REACH ALL SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION. ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS NOT INTENDED THAT TRADITIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES BE JEOPARDIZED BY PROGRAMMING.

AS IN THE CASE OF THE PIONEER SYSTEM, COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PLANNED WITH OTHER TYPES OF LIBRARIES TO EXPAND THE INFORMATION BASE AVAILABLE WITH IN THE COUNTY. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH THE PIONEER SYSTEM ITSELF ARE HIGHLY DESIRABLE, AND WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TWO DIRECTORS CAN CERTAINLY BE TURNED INTO A REALITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

FINALLY, THIS SYSTEM MUST PROVIDE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN FORMULATION OF A STATE AID PROGRAM. WITHOUT SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT LONG RANGE PLANNING FOR LARGE LIBRARY SYSTEMS WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT INDEED.

# ADDENDUM

the El Reno daily TRIBUNE

Thursday, September 4, 1975

**LOCAL OFFICIALS** and area residents attended a meeting at El Reno Junior College Wednesday to consider the possibility of a multi-county library system. State library official Dean Doerr (left) shows materials in the Bookmobile to Mrs. Walter Barrett and County Commissioner Paul Elmenhorst. (Tribune Photo)

# Residents Consider Library System

Canadian County residents turned out in moderate numbers Wednesday to consider the possibility of a multi-county library system.

Dean Doerr, a representative of the Oklahoma Library system who visited El Reno in support of the program said a multi-county system would enable small communities to begin a library program at less expense than would otherwise be possible.

"Mustang, for example, does not have a city library program and the cost of beginning such a program is forbidding," he said. "With a library system which serves a multi-county area a city library would be possible withou great additional expense.

"If the city of Mustang would provide the building then books, personnel, films and instructional materials would be provided by the library system," Doerr said.

Reaction was mixed by those attending the meeting at El Reno Junior College. El Reno residents expressed reservations to the idea saying the city library system was adequate. Residents from Mustang showed a more favorable response to the presentation.

According to Doerr the proposed system would serve a multi-county area and is a library formed under Oklahoma statute which permits two or more counties to form a library district.

"The county commissioners and cities with population exceeding 2 000 adopt resolutions for the approval of a library district. Financial support would be provided by an operational levy decided by the voters," Doerr said.

"A library system maintains and operates a library program providing access for area residents throug[illegible] and bookmobiles," he added.

Library services under proposed systems include access to film collections, records, reference service, library loans and photo-copying services.

Doerr said the cost of the library system is based on the two mill levy in each county served by the program. Two mills

EL RENO AMERICAN

September 11, 1975

PAGE 1. El Reno Americ 9/11/75

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"A library system maintains and operates a library program providing access for area residents through libraries and bookmobiles," he added.

Library services under proposed systems include access to film collections, records, reference service, library loans and photo-copying services.

Doerr said the cost of the library system is based on the two mill levy in each county served by the program. Two mills is equal to $2 on the $1,000 assessed valuation of property in the counties.

BETHANY TRIBUNE
August 28, 1975

# Dr. Ripper To Chair Library Workshop

Oklahoma County citizens are invited to a workshop on library problems and goals, Friday, September 5, at the Belle Isle Branch Library, 5501 N. Villa. The workshop is at 10 a.m. and will be chaired by Dr. C. Harold Ripper, of Bethany, a member of the Metropolitan Library Commission.

The workshop features a brief discussion of libraries by Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, followed by an open discussion period on the library goals of Oklahoma County residents. The meeting is open to the public. Local elected officials, librarians, educators and interested private citizens are invited to attend with guests.

Oklahoma County's workshop is one of four funded through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments. The purpose of the workshops is to focus on library needs and to survey present library services.

Workshops in other counties are: Logan County, 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 2 in the Guthrie Public Library; Canadian County, 1 p.m., Wednesday, September 3 at El Reno Junior College, and a combined meeting for Cleveland and McClain Counties at 10 a.m., Thursday, September 4, Norman Public Library.

After the workshops a general conference is scheduled for late October to discuss the topics raised at the county meetings and to hear Mulkey's recommendations. A survey report will be published after the conference.

Further information on the workshop is available from Ron Capshaw.

LOGAN NEWS
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Library Workshop Slated In Guthrie

8/28/75

Logan County citizens are invited to a workshop on library problems and goals, Tuesday, Sept. 2. The workshop, chaired by Logan County Commissioner T. P. Hayes, will be at 10 a.m. at the Guthrie Public Library.

The workshop features a brief discussion of libraries by Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, followed by an open discussion period on the library goals of Logan County residents. The meeting is open to the public and local elected officials, librarians and interested private citizens are encouraged to attend.

Logan County's workshop is one of 400 funded through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments. The purpose of the workshop is to focus on library needs and to survey present library services. Logan County is an Association member and Commissioner Alfred Reece is on the Board of Directors.

After the workshops, a general conference is scheduled for late October to discuss the topics raised at the county meetings and to hear Mulkey's recommendations on these topics. A survey report will be published after the conference.

THE YUKON REVIEW
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Library Problems Will Be Studied In County Workshop On Sept. 3

Canadian County citizens are invited to a workshop on library problems and goals Wednesday, September 3. The workshop, chaired by Canadian County Commissioner Paul Elmenhorst, will be at 1 p.m. at the El Reno Junior College.

The workshop features a brief discussion of libraries by Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, followed by open discussion on the library goals of Canadian County residents. The meeting is open to the public and local elected officials, librarians and interested private citizens are encouraged to attend.

Canadian County's workshop is one of four funded through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments. The purpose of the workshops is to focus on library needs and to survey present library services. Canadian County is an Association member and Commissioner Elmenhorst is on the Board of Directors.

Workshops in other counties are: Logan County, 10 a.m., September 2, Guthrie Public Library; Cleveland County, 10 a.m., September 4, Norman Public Library, and Oklahoma County, 10 a.m., September 5, Belle Isle Branch Library.

After the workshops, a general conference is scheduled for late October to discuss the topics raised at the county meetings and to hear Mulkey's recommendations on these topics. A survey report will be published after the conference.

Further information on the workshop is available from Ron Capshaw, special programs officer for the Association at 848-8961.

GUTHRIE DAILY
AUGUST 28, 1975

Guthrie Daily 8/28/75

# County Library Workshop Set

Logan County citizens are invited to a workshop on library problems and goals, Tuesday, September 2. The workshop, chaired by Logan County Commissioner T.P. Hayes, will be at 10 a.m. at the Guthrie Public Library.

The workshop features a brief discussion of libraries by Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, followed by an open discussion period on the library goals of Logan County residents.

The meeting is open to the public and local elected officials, librarians and interested private citizens are encouraged to attend.

Logan County's workshop is one of four funded through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments.

The purpose of the workshops is to focus on library needs and to survey present library services. Logan County is an Association member and Commissioner Alfred Reece is on the Board of Directors.

Workshops in other counties are Canadian County, 1 p.m., September 3, El Reno Junior College; Cleveland County 10 a.m., September 4, Norman Public Library, and Oklahoma County, 10 a.m., September 5, Belle Isle Branch Library.

After the workshops, a general conference is scheduled for late October to discuss the topics raised at the county meetings and to hear Mulkey's recommendations on these topics. A survey report will be published after the conference.

MUSTANG MIRROR
AUGUST 27, 1975

# Citizens Are Invited, To Library Workshop

8/27/75
Mustang Mirror

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Canadian County's workshop is one of four funded through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments. The purpose of the workshops is to focus on library needs and to survey present library services. Canadian County is an Association member and Commissioner Elmenhorst is on the Board of Directors.

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After the workshops, a general conference is scheduled for late October to discuss the topics raised at the county meetings and to hear Mulkey's recommendations on these topics. A survey report will be published after the conference.

Further information on the workshop is available from Ron Capshaw, special programs officer for the Association at 848-8961.

FRIDAY
September 5, 1975

# Tell off your library!

FRIDAY 9/5/75

Fridayland residents will have the opportunity to sound off about library services in a meeting to be held today at the Belle Isle branch.

The citizens' meetings will try to determine library needs in this region and area of possible cooperation across county lines.

Currenty, there are restrictions on borrowing books and other library materials across county lines. According to law, only those who own property, reside or attend school in Oklahoma County may use the Oklahoma County Libraries System. Others must pay a $10 annual fee or leave a deposit when borrowing books.

SPENCER STAR
SEPTEMBER 28, 1975

# Library problems workshop open

Spencer Star 9/4/75

Oklahoma County citizens are invited to a workshop on library problems and goals, Friday, September 5, at the Belle Isle Branch Library, 5501 N. Villa. The workshop is at 10 a.m. and will be chaired by Dr. C. Harold Ripper, a member of the Metropolitan Library Commission.

The workshop features a brief discussion of libraries by Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, followed by an open discussion period on the library goals of Oklahoma County residents. The meeting is open to the public. Local elected officials, librarians, educators and interested private citizens are invited to attend with guests.

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Further information on the workshop is available from Ron Capshaw, special programs officer for the Association, at 848-8961.

PURCELL REGISTER
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Library Holds Workshop September 4

A library workshop for Cleveland and McClain Counties will be held in the Norman Public Library Thursday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the workshop is to identify library problems, possible areas of cooperation and other library topics of concern in the Central Oklahoma area. It is sponsored by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, ACOG, under a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Those attending will be elected officials, library personnel and boards and interested private citizens. William S. Morgan, Mayor of Norman will preside. Jack Muikey, Assistant Director of the Mississippi Library Commission will serve as consultant. A regional meeting involving the entire ACOG area will be held in late October.

William H. Lowry, Director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library invites all interested Purcell area residents to attend. "We are particularly interested in involving those who need to use more than one public library in the area such as both our library and the Oklahoma County Library," Lowry said.

BLANCHARD NEWS
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Library workshop to be held in Norman

Blanchard News 8/28 p1

A library workshop for Cleveland and McClain Counties will be held in the Norman Public Library Thursday, September 4 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the workshop is to identify library problems, possible areas of cooperation and other library topics of concern in the Central Oklahoma area. It is sponsored by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, ACOG, under a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Those attending will be elected officials, library personnel and boards and interested private citizens. William S. Morgan, Mayor of Norman will preside. Jack Mulkey, Assistant Director of the Mississippi Library Commission will serve as consultant. A regional meeting involving the entire ACOG area will be held in late October.

William H. Lowry, Director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library invites all interested Blanchard area residents to attend. "We are particularly interested in involving those who need to use more than one public library in the area such as both our library and the Oklahoma County Library," Lowry said.

NORMAN TRANSCRIPT
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Library Topic Of Workshop In September

A library workshop for Cleveland and McClain counties will be held in the Norman Public Library Thursday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. The purpose of the workshop is to identify library problems, possible areas of cooperation and other library topics of concern in the Central Oklahoma area.

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William H. Lowry, director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library invites all interested Norman residents to attend. "We are particularly interested in involving those who need to use more than one public library in the area such as both our library and the Oklahoma County Library," Lowry said.

OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES
SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

# Multi-county library system boons cited

More money and less duplication are the main advantages to a multi-county library system, said Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission.

Working with the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Mulkey is holding workshops all week in Cleveland, Logan, Canadian and Oklahoma counties on library goals and development.

He said the state legislature will consider a revision of the state library laws in its next session and the workshops were designed to inform the public and city and county officials of proposed changes.

At present, counties can levy up to two mills for libraries, but they cannot use the levy unless they have a joint library system with another county, Mulkey said.

Oklahoma and Tulsa counties are exempted in the joint use law because of size, he said. They cannot join with other counties, but can use their mill levies as single counties.

The proposed revision would allow counties to levy up to four mills for library use and permit them to combine systems even if their population is more than 100,000.

In this area, Mulkey said Logan and Canadian counties do not have joint systems and financing for libraries comes from the general funds of cities within the counties. He said the library services, therefore, are localized, and not countywide.

Mulkey said advantages to multi-county systems include a stronger tax base than one county could provide, single management to do away with duplication of services and materials, and more professional leadership.

He said the municipally financed libraries often cannot afford the same quality of services available under the multi-county system.

Mississippi has multi-county library systems, Mulkey said, and he has helped set up similar systems in Alabama.

MOORE MONITOR
AUGUST 28, 1975

# Workshop Will Be September 4

A library workshop for Cleveland and McClain Counties will be held in the Norman Public Library at 10 a.m. Thursday, September 4.

The purpose of the workshop is to identify library problems, possible areas of cooperation and other library topics of concern in the Central Oklahoma area.

It is sponsored by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, ACOG, under a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Those attending will be elected officials, library personnel and boards and interested private citizens. William S. Morgan, mayor of Norman, will preside.

Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, will serve as consultant. A regional meeting involving the entire ACOG area will be held in late October.

William H. Lowry, director of the Pioneer Multi County Library, invites all interested Moore residents to attend.

"We are particularly interested in involving those who need to use more than one public library in the area

NORMAN TRANSCRIPT
SEPTEMBER 11, 1975

# City Library Patrons 'Pleased'

Nor. Trans 9-11-75

A Mississippi consultant on library services has been told that many Norman area patrons are generally pleased with the library here.

Jack Mulkey, assistant director of the Mississippi Library Commission, is studying the counties encompassed in the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments plus McClain County and will report back within 30 days.

Cooperation with other library systems in the area was a major topic for Mulkey in his discussions with librarians here.

"Although the people here are pleased with the total services and convenient access," Mulkey explains, "they are constantly seeking out changes and improvements." The consultant adds that he sees that as a healthy sign.

The area of cooperation that is mentioned over and over again is the "common library card." Such a card would allow patrons of a participating library to check out books in another library if he lived, or worked or visited in that city.

Bill Lowry, director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library, which includes the Norman facility, explains that people want books and don't really care where they check them out. "However, the problem is getting the books back," he says.

Libraries could also share resources in other ways, such as processing books for shelves, and providing more films, especially for area schools.

The Pioneer libraries could expand in this direction, Lowry says, although the Oklahoma county library has constitutional limits on its expansion.

Cooperation between the Norman library and the University of Oklahoma library was also discussed in the meetings, and Dr. Jim Zink, director of the OU libraries; told the group that non-students are welcomed to inquire about their libraries.

There is some precedent for a system made up of different types of libraries, Mulkey says. He formerly directed the "Green Gold Library System" in northwest Louisiana that included county, academic and industrial libraries.

Mulkey pointed out many of the positive things he has heard about the Norman Public Library: the "specialized" children's library (which Oklahoma County has dropped); the provision of a public forum; and pleasing facilities.

"There is good library support and strong interest," Mulkey said.

Mulkey is expected to come back with his recommendations, based on workshops in the four counties, sometime in October.

The Mississippi system that Mulkey is involved in is building 37 libraries this year and will build 36 next year, using $7 million in federal revenue sharing and a 50-50 match.

In Mississippi, the libraries also are supported actively by the state legislature, which recently approved a $1 million grant to provide professional assistance to libraries, Mulkey added.

OKLAHOMA CITY TIMES

FOLLOW-UP REPORT

# Library exchange plan in central counties working well in test run

By Ron Word

A reciprocal agreement allowing citizens in Oklahoma, Cleveland and McClain counties to have access to library materials in all of the counties is being tried on a pilot program basis and other plans are in the works.

Officials, in charge of the Oklahoma County Libraries System and the Pioneer Multi-County Library, say that although there is not much public awareness, the program has been relatively successful.

The program is a result of a Multi-County Library study conducted by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG).

"I'm very pleased with it," said Bill Lowry, director of the Pioneer Multi-County Library, which serves Cleveland and McClain counties.

"It is a good policy. We know that political lines are virtually invisible to the public," said Lee Brawner, executive director of the Oklahoma County Libraries System.

Previously, persons living in Cleveland and McClain counties could not use the Oklahoma County libraries without paying a $10 fee. Oklahoma county residents could not use the libraries in the Pioneer system.

Under the reciprocal agreement plan, persons living in any of the counties can get a library card at one of the other libraries.

For example, a Norman citizen is eligible to get an Oklahoma City library card or an Oklahoma City resident can get a Norman library card.

Materials checked out may be returned to any of the libraries.

Both Lowry and Doerr said meetings held in formulating the ACOG study indicate, that a multi-county system might be possible in Kingfisher, Canadian and Logan counties.

"The consensus at the meetings was that residents in Canadian and Logan counties were interested in new library systems," said Doerr.

Kingfisher County is not in ACOG but for a library system to be feasible between Logan and Canadian counties, Kingfisher County would be needed to make all the counties contiguous.

To qualify to form a multi-county system, residents in those counties would have to pass a one to two mill library levy.

Doerr said he had talked to El Reno City Manager Wes Devero and Mustang Mayor George McWhirter about their interests in a library system.

He said he had also visited with officials of the Ladies Library Club in Yukon, which runs the Yukon library.

All the cities have libraries except for film strips. Each library also collects fines for the books returned to it regardless of which library the books came from.

Doerr said now that the ACOG report has been completed, he plans to talk to the library and city officials in the three counties.

Brawner feel the system is working well.

"I haven't seen any serious problems," said Lowry.

Brawner said the Oklahoma County libraries have not had any problems with persons from one of the other counties abusing the privilege of the reciprocal card and said they have had no trouble getting books back which are returned in one of the other counties.

Dean Doerr, a public library consultant for the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, said he feels the program has worked well and would like to see the development of other multi-county systems and reciprocal agreements.

Doerr said the meet-

Libraries participating in the reciprocal agreement are all the Oklahoma County Libraries System branches and the Pioneer Multi-County Library System libraries in Moore, Norman, Purcell and Blanchard.

The Oklahoma County Libraries System branches have issued over 200 cards to Pioneer system residents. The Pioneer system has issued about 90 cards to Oklahoma County residents.

The agreement appiles to all materials

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